

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 583

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to recognize Ron Bennett on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of industry; and

WHEREAS, Ron Bennett, longtime Executive Director of Washington County Community Residential Services, Inc., is one such estimable person who has served his community with distinction; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bennett will take a much deserved retirement in June of this year after forty-one years of distinguished public service; and

WHEREAS, Ron Bennett began his laudable career in Walterboro, South Carolina, with the Colleton County Department of Social Services, which he served with acumen and alacrity as a Food Stamp Eligibility Worker; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bennett served that division in the role of supervisor for four years prior to working for one year as the Regional Quality Control Supervisor. He then returned to the Colleton County Department of Social Services, working as the County Director for the next five years before moving to Greeneville in 1981; and

WHEREAS, in Greeneville, Ron Bennett worked as a social worker with the Greene Valley Developmental Center for three years before accepting a position as the Outreach Supervisor for the State of Tennessee in the Greeneville Regional Office; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, Mr. Bennett left his employment with the State to become the Associate Director for Comcare's ICF/MR program and, in 1997, he became the first Executive

Director for Washington County Community Residential Services, Inc., after the organization split from The Arc of Washington County; and

WHEREAS, over the years, Mr. Bennett has helped the agency grow from infancy, turning it into a Three Star Agency and achieving many goals, such as improved housing, nursing services, improved transportation services, a community-based day program, ownership of the agency's current office complex, and implementing "Quality of Services and Supports" to all service recipients; and

WHEREAS, as a nonprofit organization, Washington County Community Residential Services, Inc., serves forty-five service recipients through seventeen residential sites and employs a staff of 115 throughout a six-county region; and

WHEREAS, Ron Bennett exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to his community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Mr. Bennett has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues and the good people of Washington County; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we extend to Ron Bennett our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.